

13TH NATIONAL FARMERS' CONVENTION

was Inauguarated
on 8th May, 1969 at 4.00 P.M.

The deleberations of the 13th National Convention of Farmers started at the National Agriculture Fair grounds, Bandra, Bombay on 8th May, 1969 at 4.00 p.m. Shri B. Rachaiah, Minister of Agriculture, Mysore presided over the function. He said about the sad and sudden demise of our late President, Dr. Zakir Husain. The meeting observed two minutes silence by standing as a mark of respect to the departed soul. Shri Rachaiah read out the resolution which was passed unanimously. (See Resolution on cover page 2)

This meeting of the 13th National Convention of Farmers sent its heartfelt condolence to the bereaved members of his family."

Welcome address by Shri S.N. Mushran

Shri S.N. Mushran, Chairman in his welcome address said :

Shri Mushran welcomed both the guests. He said that Dr. Deshmukh had a desire that one agriculture fair should be held in the city of industrialists and businessmen like Bombay. These people should feel the importance of farmers and their role in the making of the country's economic structure. This is why Samaj has organised this Fair in Bombay.

The land for this exhibition has been spared free of charge by the Maharashtra Govt. We are very much grateful for this help and cooperation. Our farmer knows the importance of agriculture in the development of industries and various trades. He sends raw material for industries. We want to show him the development in various sectors for which farmers are playing an important role.

You enjoyed the deliberation of our Seminar and discussions on its recommendations in the Council meeting. The passed resolutions will be sent to the concerned Depart-

ments and Universities in the States and Central Govt.

After the speeches of Shri Madhukar Chaudhri and Shri B. Rachaiah few farmers spoke in the Convention and Dr. Bholay read out secretary's report, published separately.

Smt. Shakuntala Pundrikakash from Meerut (U.P.) spoke quite funny and interesting. She admired the farmers exchange programme and supported its expansion upto the far east countries. She announ-

Presidential Address

(Contd. from page 19)

very near what is required to be done, the fact cannot be overlooked that a substantial progress have been made in this direction.

Similarly, agricultural inputs, like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and implements are required in large quantities in modern agriculture. It is heartening to note that many of the agro-industries that provide inputs to farming and use farm products as raw materials are developing. Many more new ventures are likely to come up in the near future. Fertilizer production for instance, which is being done to limited extent at present, is being stepped up through factories that are contemplated to be established in the next few years.

Competent Staff needed

Competent men in agriculture are required to man age the vast and rapid agricultural development efforts. Men are required for the agricultural organisations in the States, for research, teaching, and extension work, and also for the commercial banks and agricultural Universities in the country have to play a major role.

With the concerted efforts of the various agencies of the Central

ced two prizes of Rs. 5,000 each to the highest paddy and wheat growers amongst the members of the Samaj. She said it will be a sort of incentive to high-yielders. She opposed the proposal of tax imposition by the Union government.

Shri Motilal Yadav (U.P.) said that prices of foodgrains immediately slumped down as the produce comes in the market. Our farmers are facing heavy shortage of compost and organic manure. We are only depending upon the fertilizers. Water is the main problem. The prices of sugarcane and potatoes are quite low. Our plans

and State Governments, the Agricultural Scientists, and above all, the willing cooperation of the farmer to subject himself to new ideas and practices and a determined optimism on his part, I am sure before long we would reach our goal of self-sufficiency in food production and agricultural prosperity. But let us not become complacent over some of the successes we have achieved here and there. The task ahead of us is stupendous which needs a sustained efforts by all of us. With a determined will-power, we can always raise up to this task.

At Thomas Jefferson the Third President of United States put it "Those who labour in the earth are the chosen people of God. If He ever had a chosen people". Our late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri put it as "Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan". I think it is better to give the first place to Kisan because the Nations survives by his efforts only.

I thank you again, ladies and gentlemen, for enabling me to share my thoughts with you and for giving me this opportunity of participating in this essentially important convention.

and projects are not much useful to our farmers as they should be. The distribution of irrigation water is full of malpractices and improper. Govt. should chalk out a healthy and useful policy in this connection. The water on the surface is in plenty. We can take use of it through increasing lift irrigation facilities.

Shri M. D. Chaudhary, Minister of Education Maharashtra, delivered inaugural address.

(Full text on page 19)

Dr. Amrik Singh Cheema, Agricultural Production Commissioner, Govt. of India said about the drought being faced in the country. He said that still they are not afraid there will be any shortage

of food because they are proud of the farmers, who will increase more food production by adopting new techniques and using improved varieties of seeds. He said that the cost of production should be known through research by the Bharat Krishak Samaj. He said that BKS should have their look on the cost of foodgrains. He insisted that the Samaj should see that the prices of foodgrains are not coming down even though the foodgrains are in surplus.

He also said that the Farmers should be made to receive and return the loan taken as credit in time without fail.

The meeting adjourned for the next day.

canning scheme for home canning should be made available to the farmers so that they can take up the work. Cold storage facilities should be made available for the farmers. The prices should be incentive but it should not touch the pockets of the consumers too. The Governing body meetings may be held atleast once in three months at different places in the States.

Shri Misra, Minister of Agriculture spoke as distinguished guest. (Speech on page 20)

Shri Mushran thanked the GDR farmers' delegation, Mr. Fischer and Winter for having accepted our invitation and thanked them on behalf of the BKS. He said that the farmers of India will receive them wholeheartedly wherever they go. He requested Mr. Winter to address the Convention.

Mr. Winter of GDR Delegation

On behalf of the Central Executive of the Farmers Mutual Aid Association as well as the farmers of GDR he wished greetings to the Convention. He thanked the Samaj for the invitation to them to visit India and expressed their appreciation for the same. He said about the friendly relations between the Farmers' Forum, India and the Farmers Mutual Aid Association. He said about the growth of our two organisations. He said about the talk the Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi, made while welcoming a delegation from GDR recently. He said about the visit of the members of the Forum, like late Dr. Deshmukh to GDR. He also said about the opportunity the Delegation had to exchange views and experience with the Indian farmers who had assembled for the Convention about Indian and GDR agriculture. He said that this exchange of views will go a long way in deepening the mutual relations of our two Organisations further. He assured his full cooperation in the development of agriculture. He also said that GDR has become a modern industrial and agricultural country of the world. He said about the high yield for agricultural produce in the country. He illustrated the achievements of GDR in agriculture during

9th May, 1969, 10.00 A.M.

Convention Continued

Shri Jagjit Singh Mann

He said that those people who worked very hard for the Samaj from the inception of the Samaj is now present here now. He said that his youthful age was spent for the Samaj. He said about the work done by him for the Organisation of BKS in Punjab and the enrolment of Life Members done by him. He said that his aim was to spend his life to convey the message of farming and agriculture. He said that there should be a non-official Commission of farmers in fixing agricultural prices. He said that Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Cooperation, even being the President of the Samaj does not consider about the producers but only about the consumers. He said about his intention to take a Rally of 1 lakh farmers to the Parliament for conveying their right. He wanted that the Universities should not go into trading. He asked whether the BKS is doing something whether at the Central, State or District level excepting organising Conventions or Council meeting for the farmers. He said about the expenditure incurred by the farmers for agricultural production including the cost of agricultural machineries, fertilisers, mar-

keting etc. as compared to the low agricultural prices.

Shri Mohanti (Orissa)

He said that Soil Testing Laboratories should be started in all the Districts.

He also said that lift irrigation projects should be taken up by the Government and the Samaj should work towards this direction for the help of small farmers so that more acreage should be brought under cultivation.

He suggested that the Samaj should have some simple accounting for the farmers. The fertiliser companies should be requested to open Depots in each Block Centres for the help of the farmers. He also said about ground water survey. He also said that agricultural implements, like power tillers should be given on hire in all the States. He said that the State Governments should be asked to see that agricultural implements are distributed at District level on hire for the farmers. Agro-chemicals should be made available at the Pahchayat level for the benefit of the farmers. The Samaj should ask the Central Government to start factories for low cost power tiller with foreign collaboration so that every farmer may have them for their agricultural operations. Home

1968. He said about the Cooperative movements in GDR. He said about the free medical facilities extended to the children and workers. He said about the Associations and Cooperatives for Agricultural purposes. He said about the avenues received by the farmers for agriculture. He also said about their aim to live friendly and peacefully with other countries. He said about the deepening relations between the Farmers Forum India and Farmers Mutual Aid Association as the route for peace and friendliness between our two countries.

As a token of their growing friendship, he presented to the Samaj a Slide Projector on behalf of the Farmers of GDR and the Farmers Mutual Aid Association of GDR. Shri Mushran accepted the present and thanked the GDR Delegation and the Farmers Mutual Aid Association for the same. Dr. Bholay also thanked the Delegation for hav-

ing presented the Slide Projector and thanked on behalf of the farmers of India.

Smt. Shakuntla Pundrikakah (U.P.)
Shri Anil Jhaveri (Gujarat)

He said that the Bharat Krishak Samaj should start Custom Service and Contractive farming.

Agencies of seeds, agricultural implements, inputs, fertilisers etc. should be undertaken for the benefit of the farmers. He said about the National Agro-Development Corporation started by IFA Gujarat and suggested to form National Agro-Development Corporation with State Branches. He suggested to have close collaboration and contacts with financial agencies for giving money (credit) to farmers by commercial banks.

The BKS should set up Panels of experts and their proposals should be placed before the Government.

He said that steps should be taken to estimate the crops and esti-

mate of packing materials to be used by farmers.

Smt. Jaya Arunachalam (Madras)

She said that BKS should have more dynamic programmes for helping the farmers and especially young farmers. She also suggested to have programmes for farm women by the BKS.

Shri M.B. Desai (Gujarat)

He said that the fertiliser price should be reduced. Composit should be made and used by farmers. He also said that the cow-dung should be used as a manure than for fuel purposes. He asked to organise Bee-keeping. He suggested to have Boards for fruits like mangoes like Cashewnuts etc. He said every State should have an Agricultural University. He said BKS is functioning efficiently. He said more publicity should be given to BKS. He suggested that Badges be given to Life members of BKS.

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